



National school systems: sources of information

Standard Note: SN/SP/5679

Last updated: 17 December 2013

Author: Eleanor Gadd, Joseph Garber, Siama Yousaf and Mike Dowsing

Section Social Policy Section

This note provides sources of information including a selection of journal articles and websites on education systems in a selection of foreign countries. Links to these sources are embedded in the text. If further information on education systems in countries not mentioned in this note is needed, please contact the Social Policy Section on 6128.

Contents

| | | |
|----------|------------------|----------|
| 1 | General | 2 |
| 1.1 | Websites | 2 |
| 1.2 | Books | 3 |
| 2 | Australia | 3 |
| 2.1 | Websites | 3 |
| 2.2 | Journal articles | 4 |
| 3 | Denmark | 4 |
| 3.1 | Websites | 4 |
| 3.2 | Journal articles | 5 |
| 4 | Finland | 5 |
| 4.1 | Websites | 5 |
| 4.2 | Journal articles | 5 |
| 5 | France | 5 |
| 5.1 | Websites | 5 |

This information is provided to Members of Parliament in support of their parliamentary duties and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. It should not be relied upon as being up to date; the law or policies may have changed since it was last updated; and it should not be relied upon as legal or professional advice or as a substitute for it. A suitably qualified professional should be consulted if specific advice or information is required.

This information is provided subject to [our general terms and conditions](#) which are available online or may be provided on request in hard copy. Authors are available to discuss the content of this briefing with Members and their staff, but not with the general public.

| | | |
|----------|------------------|----------|
| 5.2 | Journal articles | 6 |
| 6 | Germany | 6 |
| 6.1 | Websites | 6 |
| 6.2 | Journal articles | 6 |
| 7 | Sweden | 7 |
| 7.1 | Websites | 7 |
| 8 | U.S.A | 7 |
| 8.1 | Websites | 7 |
| 8.2 | Journal articles | 7 |

1 General

1.1 Websites

[Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#)

OECD is a source of comparable statistics and economic and social data from various countries

[OECD education documents](#) (December 2013)

[OECD Directorate for Education](#) (December 2013)

[OECD page on education](#) (December 2013)

[OECD Programme for International Student Assessment \(PISA\)](#) (December 2013)

[European Union page on Education, Training, Youth](#) (December 2013)

[European Commission page on Culture, Education and Youth](#) (December 2013)

[Eurydice Network](#)

Provides information on and analyses of European education systems and policies

[International Review of Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks Internet Archive \(INCA\)](#)

INCA provides descriptions of government policy on education in various countries around the world. The website is supported by the Department for Education (DfE) and content is managed and updated by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)

[TIMMS and PIRLS](#)

TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) measures trends in mathematics and science achievement at the fourth and eighth grades. PIRLS (Progress in International Reading Literacy Study) measures trends in reading comprehension at the fourth grade

1.2 Books

Education at a Glance 2013: OECD Indicators, 2013

PISA 2012 Assessment and Analytical Framework - Mathematics, Reading, Science, Problem Solving and Financial Literacy, 2012

PISA 2009 Assessment Framework - Key Competencies in Reading, Mathematics and Science, 2009

Michael Barber et al, *Oceans of Innovation: The Atlantic, the Pacific, global leadership and the future of education*, 2012

Sutton Trust, *Social Mobility and Education Gaps in the Four Major Anglophone Countries: Research Findings for the Social Mobility Summit, London 2012*, 2012

Ofqual, *International Comparisons in Senior Secondary Assessment - Summary Report*, 2012

Jeremy Hodgen et al, *Is the UK and outlier? An international comparison of upper secondary mathematics education*, 2010

Michael Barber et al, *How the world's most improved school systems keep getting better*, 2010

Department for Business Innovation and Skills, *Review of student support arrangements in other countries*, 2010

Cheryl Lim et al, *Helping Schools Succeed Lessons From Abroad*, 2008

2 Australia

2.1 Websites

[Department of Education](#) (December 2013)

[School education](#) (November 2013)

State Department of Education websites (December 2013)

[Western Australia](#)

[Victoria](#)

[New South Wales](#)

[Queensland](#)

[South Australia](#)

[Northern Territory](#)

[Tasmania](#)

[Australian Capital Territory](#)

[The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations page on the Australian higher education system](#) (December 2013)

[The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations page on Australian early childhood education](#) (December 2013)

2.2 Journal articles

Gurd, Bruce. Rising accountability of Australian non-government schools. *Public Money and Management* | Year 2013 | Vol. 33 | Issue 6 | Page Numbers: 415-420

Bessant, Judith. Conservatives, politics and the crisis of modern education in Australia. *Policy Studies - Policy Studies Institute* | Year 2011 | Vol. 32 | Issue 6 | Page Numbers: 631-647

McConney, Andrew¹; Perry, Laura². [Science and mathematics achievement in Australia: the role of school socioeconomic composition in educational equity and effectiveness](#). *International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education*, Volume 8, Number 3, June 2010 , pp. 429-452(24). Springer

Cranston, Neil; Mulford, Bill; Keating, Jack; Reid, Alan. [Primary school principals and the purposes of education in Australia: Results of a national survey](#). *Journal of Educational Administration*, Volume 48, Number 4, 2010, pp. 517-539(23). Emerald Group Publishing Limited

[Monitoring and assessing the use of ICT in education: The case of Australia](#). Centre for Educational Research and Innovation. *SourceOECD Education & Skills*, Volume 2010, Number 27, October 2010 , pp. 53-74(22). OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Joanne Griffiths, Lesley Vidovich, Anne Chapman. [“Outcomes approaches to assessment: comparing non-government and government case-study schools in Western Australia”](#). *The Curriculum Journal*, Volume 19, Number 3 (2008), pp. 161-175

Ralph Mawdsley, J. Joy Cumming. [“Educational malpractice and setting damages for ineffective teaching: a comparison of legal principles in the USA, England and Australia”](#). *Education and the Law*, Volume 20, Number 1 (2008), pp. 25-46

3 Denmark

3.1 Websites

[Ministry of Education](#) (December 2013)

[Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education](#) (December 2013)

[Overview of the Danish education system](#) (December 2013)

[Danish Ministry of Education page on primary and lower secondary education](#) (December 2013)

[Danish Ministry of Education page on upper secondary education](#) (December 2013)

[Danish Ministry of Education page on Higher education](#) (December 2013)

[Danish Ministry of Education page on adult education and continuing training](#) (December 2013)

[Study in Denmark](#)

Studyindenmark.dk is managed by the Danish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education

3.2 Journal articles

Tverborgvik, Torill¹; Clausen, Lene Björk¹; Thorsted, Brian Larsen¹; Mikkelsen, Sigurd²; Lynge, Elsebeth¹. [Intergenerational Educational Mobility in Denmark](#). Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research, Volume 57, Number 5, 1 October 2013 , pp. 544-560(17)

[Making reform happen in education](#). SourceOECD Governance, Volume 2010, Number 20, May 2010 , pp. 148-170(23)

Mortimore, Peter. Danish and English education systems: What lessons can we learn? Education Review, Volume 21, Number 2, 2009, pp. 47-59

4 Finland

4.1 Websites

[Ministry of Education and Culture](#) (December 2013)

[Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture page on the Finnish education system](#) (December 2013)

[Finish education in a nutshell](#) (2012)

Ministry of Education and Culture

4.2 Journal articles

Sahlberg, Pasi. [The Fourth Way of Finland](#). Journal of Educational Change, Volume 12, Number 2, May 2011 , pp. 173-185(13)

Wriglet, Terry. Finland's school success: Why don't our politicians listen? Education Review, Volume 23, Number 1, 2010, pp. 42-51

[Making reform happen in education](#). SourceOECD Governance, Volume 2010, Number 20, May 2010 , pp. 148-170(23)

Ammermueller, Andreas. PISA: [What makes the difference?: Explaining the gap in test scores between Finland and Germany](#). Empirical Economics, Volume 33, Number 2, September 2007 , pp. 263-287(25)

5 France

5.1 Websites

[French Ministry of Education](#) (December 2013) (In French)

[France Diplomatie page on the French education system](#) (December 2013)

[Ministère des Affaires étrangères page on French education system](#) (June 2007)

[Campus France page on the French higher education system](#) (2008)

[Institut français du Royaume-Uni](#) (2009) (French Cultural Institute in the UK):
Information on the French education system

5.2 Journal articles

Agnes Poirier, [“Parent power confronts Sarkozy”](#), *New Statesman*, Volume 137, Number 4905, July 14, 2008, pp. 28.2-28.2

6 Germany

6.1 Websites

[German Federal Ministry of Education and Research](#) (December 2013)

[Eduserver](#) (December 2013)

English language version of the German Education Server, provides access and background information regarding the German education system and its international context

[Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany London page on the German Education System](#) (December 2013)

[Goethe-Institut](#) (December 2013)

Cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany

6.2 Journal articles

Neumann, Knut¹; Fischer, Hans²; Kauertz, Alexander³. [From PISA to educational standards: the impact of large-scale assessments on science education in Germany](#). *International Journal of Science and Mathematics Education*, Volume 8, Number 3, June 2010, pp. 545-563(19)

Freitag, Markus; Schlicht, Raphaela. [Educational Federalism in Germany: Foundations of Social Inequality in Education](#). *Governance*, Volume 22, Number 1, January 2009, pp. 47-72(26)

Matthias Pilz, [“Why Abiturienten do an apprenticeship before going to university: the role of 'double qualifications' in Germany”](#), *Oxford Review of Education*, Volume 35, Number 2, April 2009, pp. 187-204

Silke Aisenbrey, [“Economic Penalties and Rewards of Family Formation, Gender and Education in the Low-income Sector in Germany”](#), *British Journal of Sociology*, Volume 60, Number 1, March 2009, pp. 95-121

Markus Freitag, Raphaela Schlicht, [“Educational Federalism in Germany: Foundations of Social Inequality in Education”](#), *Governance*, Volume 22, Number 1, January 2009, pp. 47-72

Wynands, Alexander; Möller, Gerd. [High-performing students in the 'Hauptschule'—A comparison of different groups of students in secondary education within Germany](#). ZDM, Volume 37, Number 5, October 2005 , pp. 437-444(8)

Puhani, Patrick¹; Weber, Andrea². [Does the early bird catch the worm?: Instrumental variable estimates of early educational effects of age of school entry in Germany](#). Empirical Economics, Volume 32, Numbers 2-3, May 2007 , pp. 359-386(28)

7 Sweden

7.1 Websites

[Swedish Ministry of Education and Research](#) (December 2013)

[Swedish Higher Education Authority](#) (December 2013)

[Swedish Council for Higher Education](#) (December 2013)

[Swedish Ministry of Education and Research overview of the Swedish education system](#) (September 2013)

[Sweden page on education](#) (December 2013)

[The Swedish National Agency for Education](#) (December

[What influences educational achievement in Swedish schools?](#)

Swedish National Agency for Education report (2009)

8 U.S.A

8.1 Websites

[US Department for Education](#) (December 2013)

[Bureau of International Information Programs USA education in brief](#) (September 2008)

[Fulbright Commission page on US School system](#) (December 2013)

[Fulbright Commission page on US Higher education system](#) (December 2013)

8.2 Journal articles

Ravitch, Diane. Stop the madness, Education Review, Volume 23, Number 1, 2010, pp. 27-34

Ralph Mawdsley, J. Joy Cumming. [“Educational malpractice and setting damages for ineffective teaching: a comparison of legal principles in the USA, England and Australia”](#). *Education and the Law*, Volume 20, Number 1 (2008), pp. 25-46